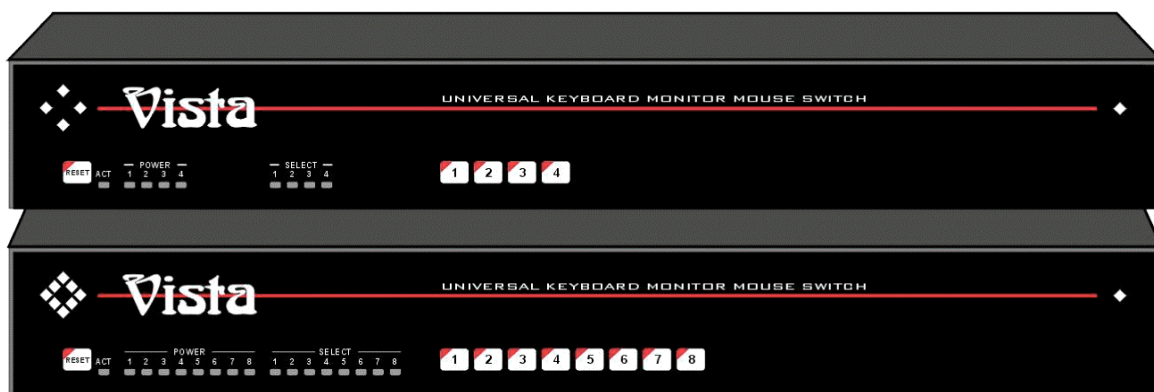




PERSONAL KEYBOARD-MONITOR-MOUSE SWITCH

# INSTALLATION AND OPERATION MANUAL



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## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for choosing Vista™. Designed for *plug-and-play* operation, your new Vista switch simplifies your job by helping you organize your multiple computer applications. Because Vista lets you use a single keyboard, monitor, and mouse to access several computers, you can significantly reduce your equipment overhead and end keyboard and monitor clutter.

### Features

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- Access either 4 or 8 computers with one keyboard, monitor, and mouse
- Low cost and easy to use
- Saves physical space, equipment and power costs, reduces clutter
- Select computer from keyboard command or front panel
- Simple to use keystrokes switch computers for fast and easy control
- Use front panel to switch to any computer
- Front panel LEDs show computer, keyboard, and mouse status
- Uses computer's power - no external power required
- Monitor, keyboard, and mouse plug directly into unit
- Computer ports are DB25 connectors or PC-style connectors
- Scan mode automatically sequences through CPUs at adjustable rate
- Non-volatile memory stores configuration settings
- Heavy-duty steel, fully shielded chassis
- Rackmount option for 19", 23", or 24" racks
- Comes with a one-year warranty and unlimited technical support
- Made in USA

### KEYBOARD AND MOUSE

---

- Full emulation of keyboard and mouse, computers can be booted at any time
- Support PS/2 mouse with or without wheel
- Simultaneously supports CPUs with either PS/2 (regular or wheel) or serial mouse
- Keyboard Num Lock, Caps Lock, and Scroll Lock states automatically saved and restored when switching among CPUs
- Keyboard mode automatically detected for simultaneous support of PCs, Unix computers, and IBM mode 1 computers

### FRONT PANEL

---

- Switch to any computer from front panel
- Front panel LEDs show which computer is selected and powered on
- Activity LED shows CPU power-on and keyboard and mouse data
- Reset switch reinitializes all devices

### VIDEO

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- Video resolution supports up to 1600 x 1280 non-interlaced video
- Uses amplifiers for crystal clear video and increased distance

## GETTING STARTED

To acquaint you with your Vista unit, this manual first describes Vista's front and rear panels. Then follow the installation on page 8, which is a simple step by step description of plugging the cables in and accessing the computers.

### Vista models

---

This manual describes several different models of Vista, see Table 1 below. The features and commands are similar for the different models. Please disregard the diagrams and text that do not apply to your model. The models available are:

<i>Model</i>	<i>Computers</i>	<i>On-Screen Display</i>
1017-08	8 PCs	No
1018-04	4 PCs	Yes
1018-08	8 PCs	Yes

**Table 1. Standard Vista Models**

### Package contents

---

Your Vista package includes the Vista unit, your warranty registration card, and this manual.

### Locating the unit

---

The Vista unit is best located as close to the CPUs as possible. This will reduce the length of the CPU cables and provide a more cost-effective and neater installation. Vista can also be used with the optional rackmount kit. While usage of Vista is trouble-free and transparent and need not be in an accessible location, you may wish to access the front panel in order to see the activity, power, or select LEDs or to switch to a computer from the front panel switches.

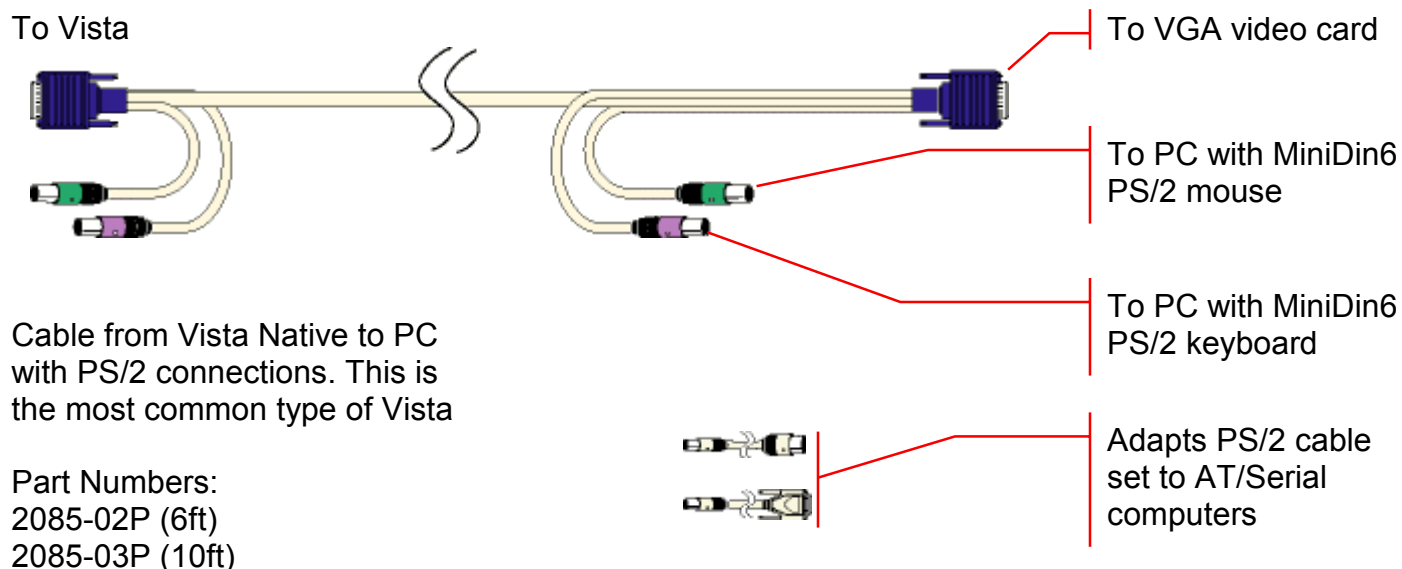
### Cable requirements

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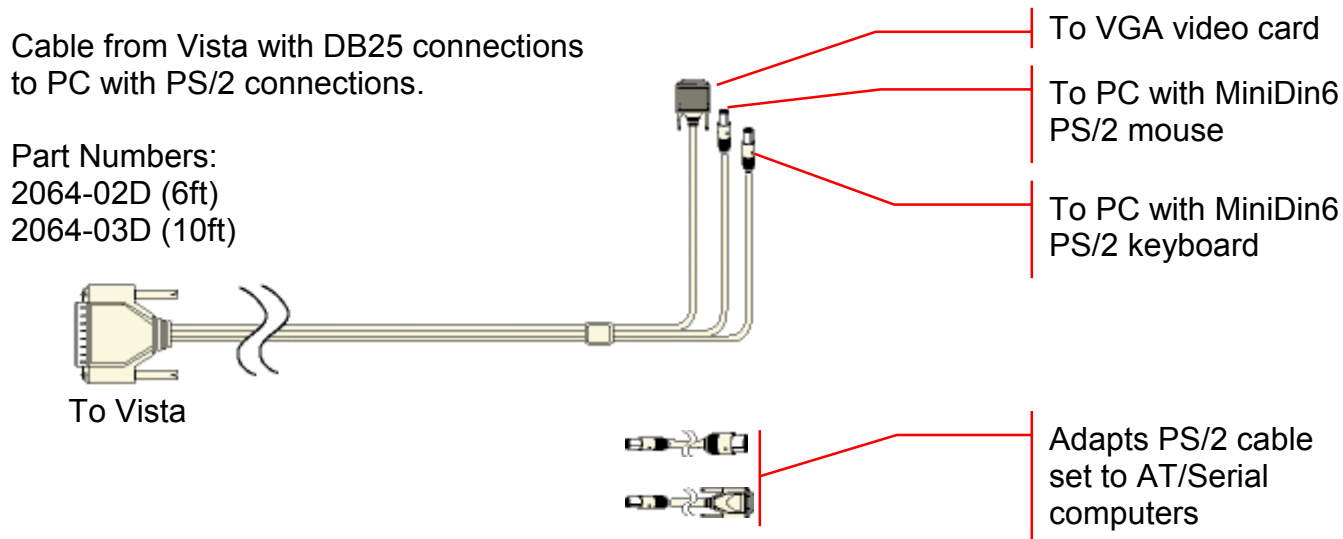
Vista connects to each computer with various cables, depending on which model and computer type, see *Figure 1* on the next page for the different cable types. You plug the keyboard, monitor, and mouse directly into Vista. The cables are most commonly purchased with Vista and will provide quick and trouble-free operation.

Most installations use cable no longer than 20 feet in length. Cable length will affect the quality of the video, depending upon which resolution you will be using. You can improve the video resolution and distance by ordering coax cables, see *Figure 1* and *Appendix C* for the part number of the cable.

## Cables for use with Vista Native



## Cables for use with special models that have DB25 connectors



**Figure 1. Vista Cables**

### The front panel

The Vista front panel features five switches and nine LED indicators (4 port model) or nine switches and seventeen LED indicators (8 port model). To familiarize yourself with Vista's controls and indicators, review the illustration and descriptions given below.



Figure 2. Vista 4 port front panel, model 1018-04



Figure 3. Vista 8 port front panel, model 1017-08, 1018-08

*Table 2. The front panel*

<b>ACT ACTIVITY LED</b>	The activity LED is lit when the currently selected CPU has power applied to it. It will flash as keyboard and mouse data is sent to the unit. Since power from Vista comes from the computers, you must have at least one computer connected.
<b>POWER LEDS 1-4 or 1-8</b>	Indicates which computers are powered on.
<b>SELECT LEDS 1-4 OR 1-8</b>	Indicates which computer is currently selected
<b>RESET SWITCH</b>	Resets the unit and initializes the keyboard and mouse, also used to reset the unit to factory default settings.
<b>SWITCH 1-4 or 4-8</b>	Selects the computer to connect to the keyboard, mouse and monitor



The rear panel, models 1018-04, 1017-08, 1018-08



Figure 4. Vista rear panel, Model 1018-04

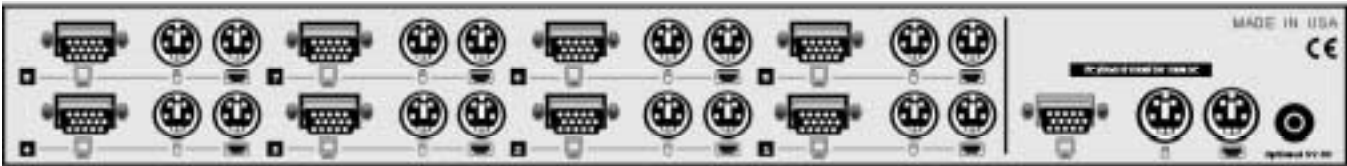





Figure 5. Vista rear panel, model KVL-8PC

Table 3. The rear panel, models 1017-08, 1018-04, 1018-08		
Panel Label	Connector	Description
 <b>VGA Monitor</b>	HD15 female	Connect the VGA monitor directly to this connector.
 <b>PS/2 Mouse</b>	Mini-din-6 female	Connect the PS/2 mouse directly to this connector.
 <b>PS/2 Keyboard</b>	Mini-din-6 female	Connect the PS/2 keyboard directly to this connector.

# INSTALLATION

## Step 1. Connecting the monitor, keyboard, and mouse

---

- 1.1 Plug the monitor, keyboard, and mouse cables from your controlling keyboard, monitor and mouse directly into the unit.

## Step 2. Connecting the CPUs

---

CPU cables connect your computers to the Vista. Each computer requires its own cables, with appropriate connectors for your particular CPU. CPU cables are available from your Dakota dealer or directly from Dakota Computer Solutions. Refer to *Figure 1* on page 3 for selecting the proper cable.

### For Vista Native models with PC connectors:

- 2.1 Plug the HD15 male-male cable from the video card into one of the numbered HD15 female connectors on the Vista rear panel.
- 2.2 Plug the mini-din-6 male-male cable from the computer keyboard port into one of one of the numbered mini-din-6 female connectors with a keyboard symbol on the Vista rear panel. If your computer has a din-5 keyboard port use the mini-din-6 female to din-5 male adapter. Be sure you are keeping the keyboard, mouse and monitor connections for each computer on the same port. Ensure that you do not mix up the keyboard and mouse cables as they can look identical on first glance.
- 2.3 Plug the mini-din-6 male-male cable from the computer mouse port into one of one of the numbered mini-din-6 female connectors with a mouse symbol on the Vista rear panel. If your computer is configured to use a serial port for the mouse, use the mini-din-6 female to DB9 female adapter, code 2085-00S.

**Warning: Do not substitute with a non-Dakota mouse adapter. There is a difference. Damage may occur if you use a third-party adapter!**

### For Vista special models with DB25 connectors:

- 2.1 Plug the DB25 male connector of the CPU adapter cable into one of the numbered CPU ports on the Vista rear panel.
- 2.2 Plug the CPU adapter cable's monitor, keyboard, and mouse connectors into the CPU's corresponding ports.

**WARNING:** Avoid routing cable near fluorescent lights, air conditioning compressors, or machines that may create electrical noise. For best quality video, use triple shielded coax (high-resolution) cable. Read *Appendix A, B, and C* for further cable information.

### Step 3. Powering up the system

---

3.1 Boot up each of the connected CPUs. Vista emulates all keyboard and mouse functions for automatic boot-up. You do not have to re-boot the CPU, if it is inconvenient. In this case you may need to issue the mode command, see page 11, to have proper keyboard communication.

### Step 4. Switching from the keyboard

---

Your Vista is now ready for operation using its default settings. Pressing the numbered switch on the front panel will switch to that computer. To take full advantage of the Vista features, refer to the *Operation* section beginning on page 10. The *Operation* section gives detailed information about each of the Vista commands, describing its application and giving the keyboard command sequence. For your convenience, this information is summarized in the *Keyboard command summary* on page 16. To begin switching immediately from the keyboard follow the instructions below.

4.1 Press and release your keyboard's **left** Control Key (**<Ctrl>**), then type in the computer number 1-8.

**NOTE:** Before entering any Vista keyboard command, you must press and release the **left** Control Key. This instructs Vista to look for valid commands from the keyboard. You then have two seconds in which to start entering a valid command before the command mode is released.

**NOTE:** When entering numeric commands, use only the numeral keys located at the top of your alphanumeric keyboard. Numbers entered from the numeric keypad to the right will **not** be recognized as valid commands.

## OPERATION

Vista is simple to operate. Computer selection and function commands are entered from the keyboard. You can also select computers manually from the Vista's front panel by using switches 1-8. This section details each Vista function.

**IMPORTANT OPERATION NOTE:** To send Vista keyboard commands, you must first press and release the **left** Control Key (**<Ctrl>**). Pressing and releasing **<Ctrl>** instructs Vista to look for valid commands from the keyboard. You have two seconds between each keystroke to enter a valid command; otherwise Vista aborts the command.

**NOTE:** When entering numeric commands, use only the numeric keys located at the top of your keyboard. Numbers entered from the numeric keypad to the right will **not** be recognized as valid commands.

**NOTE:** Vista commands ignore case. All command letters are shown capitalized for clarity only.

### Keyboard computer selection

---

To select a computer from your keyboard, press and release your keyboard's **left** Control Key (**<Ctrl>**), then type in the computer number. Remember to use the numbers located at the top of your keyboard. **Do not** use the numeric keypad.

### Going to the next or previous computer

---

From the keyboard you can toggle forward or backward through the computers by selecting either the Next or Previous computer. To go to the Next computer, press and release the **left** Control Key **<Ctrl>**, then press the "+/=" (plus) key. To go to the Previous computer, press and release **<Ctrl>**, then press the (minus) key. The command is not case sensitive. Use the keys at the top of your keyboard, not those on the numeric pad.

### Scan mode commands

---

To enable scanning from the keyboard, press and release the **left** Control Key (**<Ctrl>**), then type "S". Vista will begin scanning sequentially from its current computer through the remaining computers (as set by the maximum computers command, page 13), then begin again at computer 1. The time between switching to the next computer is the scan time interval and is programmable from 1-15 seconds. To stop scanning, press and release **<Ctrl>**, then type "X". Entering a computer selection command also disables scanning. The power-on state of scanning can be saved in nonvolatile memory. To do this set the scan state and follow with the Keep command.

## Scan time interval command

---

The scan time interval command sets the time, in seconds, that Vista will pause at each of the computers when scanning. The default setting is 5 seconds. To set another interval, press and release the left Control Key, type "T", enter the new scan time interval (in seconds), and press <Enter>. Remember to use the upper numeric keys, not the numeric keypad to the right. Follow with the Keep command to save the setting.

## Mode command

---

Vista supports PC keyboard modes 1, 2, and 3. The keyboard mode is set by commands from the CPU. Mode 2 is the most common mode used by the vast majority of CPUs. It is also the power-up state of all PC keyboards. Mode 1 is used primarily by certain models of IBM PS/2 computers. Mode 3 is used by Unix computers such as R/S 6000, HP 9000, SGI, DEC Alpha, and others.

Vista automatically detects each PC's keyboard mode upon CPU boot-up, and thus learns which CPU uses which mode. If the CPU has already booted and is then connected, Vista cannot detect the CPU's keyboard mode and uses the setting stored in the Vista's non-volatile memory. The mode command can be issued to change the keyboard mode for each computer and can be saved in non-volatile memory with the Keep command.

To issue the Mode command, press and release the left Control Key, type "M", and enter the mode number "1 ", "2", or "3", followed by <Enter>. Remember to use the alphanumeric keys, not the numeric keypad, to enter the mode number. Follow with the Keep command. The mode is changed on your currently selected computer. To change the mode on another computer, you must first switch to that computer and then issue the mode command.

## Typematic value command

The typematic setting is used to adjust the user preference of the way the keyboard acts when holding a key down to repeat the key, such as when moving a cursor across a line. The rate is the speed at which the keys are sent in keys/second. The delay is the wait time in milliseconds after the key is initially pressed, before additional keystrokes are sent. To issue the command press and release the **left** Control key, then type "**A**", then enter the 1-3 digit decimal *typematic value* followed by **<Enter>**. The *typematic value* is defined below. Use the keep command to save the value.

The *typematic value* to be used is determined from the following tables using the equation: **Typematic Value = Rate value + Delay Value**. Pick the desired rate in keys/sec. (32 choices) and delay in milliseconds (4 choices) from the tables below. Add the values to the right of the desired settings. For example to use a Rate of 16.0 keys/sec. and a 500 millisecond delay, the typematic value = 7 + 32 = 39, so to set this value, type **<Ctrl> A 39 <Enter>**.

Table 4. Typematic rate

Rate Keys/sec	Rate Value	Rate Keys/sec	Rate Value	Rate Keys/sec	Rate Value	Rate Keys/sec	Rate Value
30.0	0	15.0	8	7.5	16	3.7	24
26.7	1	13.3	9	6.7	17	3.3	25
24.0	2	12.0	10	6.0	18	3.0	26
21.8	3	10.9	11	5.5	19	2.7	27
20.0	4	10.0	12	5.0	20	2.5	28
18.5	5	9.2	13	4.6	21	2.3	29
17.1	6	8.6	14	4.3	22	2.1	30
16.0	7	8.0	15	4.0	23	2.0	31

Table 5. Typematic delay

Delay in millisec.	Delay value	Delay in millisec.	Delay value	Delay in millisec.	Delay value	Delay in millisec.	Delay value
<u>250</u>	0	500	32	750	64	1000	96

## Maximum computers command

---

This command tells the Vista system the total number of computers connected. It is used so that computer scanning can bypass unused ports on the unit. For example with an eight-port unit if no computers were connected to ports 7 and 8 you could scan computers 1-6 and bypass 7 and 8. To issue the command press and release the **left** Control Key, type "**P**", enter the total number of computers, and press **<Enter>**. Follow with the Keep command to save the new setting in the unit's non-volatile memory.

## PS/2 to serial mouse translation, wheel mouse

---

You can use some computers with PS/2 mouse interfaces and some computers with serial interfaces. You must issue this command on each computer, which is serial. You must switch to each computer and issue the command.

To configure a computer for a serial mouse, press and release the **left** Control Key, type "**Q1**", and press **<Enter>**. Follow with the Keep command to save the new setting in the unit's non-volatile memory. To restore a computer which was previously set to serial to regular PS/2 use Q0 instead of Q1.

Whether a computer uses a PS/2 wheel mouse or a regular PS/2 mouse is learned by Vista when the computer loads its mouse driver. This will override any previous setting. You can tell Vista to change its PS/2 communication to regular or wheel with the Q command. You can also save it to non-volatile memory.

To configure a computer for a wheel mouse, press and release the **left** Control Key, type "**Q2**", and press **<Enter>**. Follow with the Keep command to save the new setting in the unit's non-volatile memory. To restore a computer which was previously set to wheel mouse to regular PS/2 use Q0 instead of Q2.

## Null command

---

This command is used to re-synchronize an out-of-sync PS/2 mouse. Such a condition can result due to transients, spurious power-up effects, or plugging and unplugging of cables with live equipment. The command may need to be entered once or twice, depending if the mouse is out-of-sync by one or two bytes. Microsoft mouse driver version 9.01 or later corrects this inadequacy of previous drivers and renders this command unnecessary. To issue the command, press and release the **left** Control Key, then type "**N**".

## Keep command

---

The Keep command saves the current state of the Vista's custom settings. These settings are scan enable, scan interval, each CPU's mode and keyboard LED state, maximum computers, the keyboard typematic value, and the mouse translation for each CPU. These settings are saved in non-volatile memory and become the power-up settings. To enter the command, press and release the **left** Control Key, then type "K".

## ROM Identification command

---

This command is used to identify the revision level of Vista firmware currently installed. Before entering this command, your currently selected CPU should be at a command prompt, word processor, or editor, so that when Vista sends the ROM revision level that the result will be displayed. To issue the command, press and release the **left** Control Key, then type "I". Vista will send back its current firmware revision level, in the format *majorversion.minorversion*.

## Reset command

---

This command is used to re-boot the mouse and keyboard without removing power from Vista. This is most useful to reset a PS/2 mouse that has been unplugged and plugged back in. This command is also useful to enable mouse data to be sent to a CPU that has not enabled the mouse. This may be the case if Vista was not connected or powered off after a CPU was booted up. To issue the command, press and release the **left** Control Key, then type "R". This command should not be issued to a CPU which has a PS/2 mouse connected, but no mouse driver is loaded, since many CPUs will crash if you send them unexpected mouse data.

Immediately upon issuing the command, you will see the keyboard LEDs all go on and then resume their previous state.

## Reset computer mouse command

---

This command sends a mouse-reset command to the currently selected computer. Don't confuse this command with the reset command, which resets the mouse itself. This command can be used to recover a stuck mouse on NT and Windows 95/98. To issue the command, press and release the **left** Control Key, then type "O".

Do not use this on older computers that can not recover the mouse by plugging a mouse in directly, as it will make the mouse go out of sync.



## **Reset to factory default**

---

The settings that have been previously set and saved in non-volatile memory can be returned to their factory default settings. This can be useful when the unit is being moved to a new installation or to put the settings into a known condition for troubleshooting. To perform this operation, hold in the "1" and the "2" membrane buttons on the front panel and press and release the "reset" button. At least one CPU must be correctly connected to the unit, so that the unit can be powered. The activity LED will flash three times to signify that the non-volatile memory has been returned to the original factory default settings listed in Appendix C.

## **Rackmount kit**

---

The rackmount kit is an optional item that can be ordered at any time. Your Vista unit is designed to accept the rack-mount mounting brackets. There are three sizes available 19" by 1.75", 23" by 1.75", and 24" by 1.75". The most common rack style is 19".

## KEYBOARD COMMAND SUMMARY

To enter any keyboard command, first press and release the **left** Control Key, represented by **<Ctrl>**. Then enter the command followed by any parameters you wish to specify. The number of the port you wish to switch to is an example of a valid parameter.

Letter commands are not case sensitive, and are shown in upper case for clarity only. **Do not** use the shift key in the command.

**Do not** use the numeric keypad to enter any commands.

All Vista commands use a two-second time-out between key presses. The command and command mode will expire and reset to normal keyboard function after two seconds. This feature ensures that the keyboard command mode of the Vista does not interfere with normal keyboard operation.

The **<Ctrl>** character is always passed through to the CPU. The valid command characters and command operands, however, are absorbed by Vista and not sent to the CPU when the vista is in command mode.

Figure 6. Keyboard command summary

Command	Key Sequence	Description
Port Selection	<Ctrl> <i>n</i> where <i>n</i> = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8	Connects your common keyboard, monitor, and mouse to the selected computer.
Connect to next computer	<Ctrl> +	Selects the next sequential computer.
Connect to previous computer	<Ctrl> -	Selects the previous sequential computer.
Scan On	<Ctrl> S	Turns Scan mode on, causing Vista to start scanning sequentially from the current port through the remaining ports and beginning again at Port 1.
Scan Off	<Ctrl> X	Turns Scan mode off. <b>Note:</b> Scan can also be stopped by entering a Port Selection command.
Reset command	<Ctrl> R	Resets and enables mouse and keyboard, enables PS/2 mouse on currently selected port.
Reset CPU-side mouse command	<Ctrl> O	Sends reset mouse command to currently selected computer. Will recover a stuck mouse on NT.
Send null to mouse	<Ctrl> N	Used to re-synchronize PS/2 mouse which has gotten out-of-sync.
Identify ROM	<Ctrl> I	Identifies ROM version, CPU must be at

version		some sort of command prompt to receive value.
Keep settings	<Ctrl> K	Tells Vista to save current scan state and custom settings of commands shown below.
Scan time interval	<Ctrl> T <i>nn</i> <Enter> where <i>nn</i> = time in seconds from 1-15 seconds	Sets the time, in seconds, that Vista will pause at each port when scanning. <b>Note:</b> Follow with Keep command.
Set keyboard mode and computer type	Select port, then enter command: <Ctrl> M <i>n</i> <Enter> where <i>n</i> = 1, 2, or 3	Sets PC's keyboard mode. Must be done for each computer where specific keyboard/PC types are required. See Keyboard Modes on page 9 for a full description. <b>Note:</b> Follow with Keep command.
Set maximum ports	<Ctrl> P <i>n</i> <Enter> where <i>n</i> = a single digit number signifying total number of ports	Sets the total number of ports to be used. Limits scanning to this number of ports. <b>Note:</b> Follow with Keep command.
Set typematic value	<Ctrl> A <i>nnn</i> <Enter> where <i>nnn</i> = a 1-3 digit number from 0 to 127 indicating KB typematic value	Sets power-on keyboard typematic action, which is controlled by Vista. This can be used to adjust the keystroke rate and delay to the user preferred setting. See <i>Table 4 and Table 5</i> for how the typematic value is determined. <b>Note:</b> Follow with Keep command.
Set PC mouse type	Select port, then enter command: <Ctrl> Q <i>n</i> <Enter> where <i>n</i> = 0 (regular PS/2 mouse) 1 (serial mouse) 2 (PS/2 wheel mouse)	Enable/disable PS/2 to serial mouse or PS/2 to PS/2 Wheel mouse translation. Must be done for each computer where translation is desired by switching to it and issuing the command. <b>Note:</b> Follow with Keep command.

## APPENDIX A. FACTORY DEFAULT SETTINGS

Settings	Default
Scan enable	Off
Scan Time Interval	5 seconds
Caps/Numlock/Scroll	Numlock On
PC keyboard Mode	2
Typematic Value	43 (Rate=10.9 chars/sec, delay=500millisec.)
Mouse translation	0 (PS/2 mouse output)

## APPENDIX B. GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

SIZE	13.2"W x 1.75" x 4.5"D
WEIGHT	3 lb.
ENVIRONMENT	0 to 55°C., 0% to 80% non-condensing relative humidity
INPUT POWER	Supplied by keyboard port on computers or 110V/220V auto switching DC9V converter on OSD models
CPU CONNECTORS	HD15F/MiniDin6F/MiniDin6F
VIDEO CONNECTOR	HD15 female VGA-style video
KEYBOARD CONNECTOR	MiniDin6 female
PS/2 MOUSE CONNECTOR	MiniDin6 female
CHASSIS	Fully shielded, black painted steel with polyester front panel overlay
CONTROLS	Reset switch Computer select membrane switches: 4 port models            membrane button 1-4 8 port models            membrane button 1-8
INDICATORS	Activity LED Power LEDs:  Computer select LEDs: 4 port models            LEDs 1-4 8 port models            LEDs 1-8

## APPENDIX C. CABLES AND ACCESSORIES

Description	Part Number
<b>CPU cables for models with PC connectors</b>	
High Resolution Combination cable HD15/MiniDin6/MiniDin6 M-M 6ft	2085-02P
High Resolution Combination cable HD15/MiniDin6/MiniDin6 M-M 10ft	2085-03P
High Resolution Combination cable HD15/MiniDin6/MiniDin6 M-M 15ft	2085-05P
High Resolution Combination cable HD15/MiniDin6/MiniDin6 M-M 25ft	2085-07P
High Resolution Combination cable HD15/MiniDin6/MiniDin6 M-M 30ft	2085-10P
AT/Serial Adapter Set - converts above cable sets to Din5 and DB9	2085-00S
<b>CPU adapter cables for models with DB25 connectors</b>	
Coax VGA-PS/2 keyboard-PS/2 mouse to DB25M 5ft	2064-02D
Coax VGA-PS/2 keyboard-PS/2 mouse to DB25M 10ft	2064-03D
AT/Serial Adapter Set - converts above cable sets to Din5 and DB9	2085-00S
<b>Rack mounts</b>	
Rackmount: Black anodized, for installation in 19" racks.	1116-00L

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